

In the claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in the pending application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically retrieving and playing multimedia files, comprising:

a network access interface which provides access to a data network;

a processing module in a centralized scheduling website to automatically collect information including ~~an~~ first identifier of a first multimedia file, a first location of said first multimedia file and ~~a first datum relating to~~ a first schedule of the availability of said first multimedia file, wherein said processing module creates first categorization information relating to said first multimedia file;

wherein said processing module automatically collects information including a second identifier of a second multimedia file, a second location of said second multimedia file and a second schedule of the availability of ~~datum relating to at least one time when~~ said second multimedia file ~~is available for download~~, wherein said processing module creates second categorization information relating to said second multimedia file;

wherein said processing module, said first location, and said second location are situationed within distinct domains within the data network;

wherein said processing module automatically compiles a consolidated Internet program listing containing the collected information;

a web browser plug-in selection interface in communication with said processing module which provides for automatic presentation of the ~~returned~~ collected information,

and automatically receives and processes a selection from a client computer for accessing at least the first multimedia file according to the first schedule of the availability of the first multimedia file and the second multimedia file according to the second schedule of the availability of the second multimedia file from the data network and compiles a download schedule; and

a file download device in communication with the selection interface which, based on the download schedule, automatically accesses said first and second multimedia files at said location through said network access interface and downloads the selected multimedia files.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the processing module in the centralized scheduling website receives a ~~download~~-schedule file from each of a plurality of remote multimedia websites on a periodic basis, each schedule file comprising schedule of availability information for at least one multimedia file and wherein a first schedule file comprises the first schedule of the availability of the first multimedia file and a second schedule file comprises the second schedule of the availability of the second multimedia file.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, further comprising a receiver plug-in module on a client computer to automatically request at least a and receive one or more portions of a program listing created by the processing module on the centralized scheduling website, in response to receiving the schedule file from each of the plurality of remote multimedia websites.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the program listing comprises a user's multimedia file category preferences file and the received schedule of availability information for each multimedia file ~~at least a portion of a media guide.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of: the selection interface; and the file download device are configured as plugins in a web browser installed in the ~~personal~~ client computer.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein,

the multimedia file comprises a live event; and,

the selection interface includes at least one of:

a first selection for real time play of said ~~first multimedia file which is~~
~~downloaded~~ live event; and

a second selection for storing in a memory said ~~first multimedia file which~~
~~is downloaded in memory~~ live event.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein an interface is provided for restricting categories of multimedia files to be presented by the selection interface.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Cancelled) The system of claim 6 wherein the system includes a media player for playing said first multimedia file in real time.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of retrieving multimedia files over a data network from a remote site in connection with the data network, comprising

in a ~~processing module in a~~ centralized scheduling web-site:

collecting identity information and download availability information for a plurality of multimedia files in a plurality of multimedia websites, wherein said plurality of multimedia websites ~~searched~~ comprise at least two websites in distinct domains of the data network and wherein said availability information comprises at least one time when at least one of said plurality of multimedia files are available for download;

categorizing said plurality of multimedia files;

creating a consolidated Internet program listing containing said identity information and said download availability information;

in a client computer:

presenting an interactive interface in a web browser through a first web browser plug-in which includes the listing and through which individual selections may be made for downloading at least one of the plurality of the multimedia files from at least one of the plurality of multimedia websites according to the listing on the centralized scheduling website of when the at least one of the plurality of the multimedia files is available;

receiving an input through the interactive interface in the first web browser plug-in selecting a particular number of the plurality of multimedia files from the listing;

compiling a download schedule based on the received input, wherein the schedule includes a description of the multimedia files selected, day and time for the download, and download information, including the domain; and

based on the input received through the interface in the web browser, accessing and downloading over the data network through a second web browser plug-in, the selected multimedia files from the selected multimedia websites.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising at least one of:

storing the multimedia files in memory through a third web-browser plug-in; and
playing the selected multimedia files through the third web-browser plug-in.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein only a predetermined number of multimedia files may be stored in memory.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the multimedia files are automatically retrieved by the second web browser plug-in at the day and time available for download according to ~~a time~~ the download schedule.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the data network is the Internet.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein any scheduling conflicts between the downloading of multimedia files are detected and the downloading is rescheduled as necessary to resolve conflicts through an automated scheduler subroutine.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the listing is created based on topical categories.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the topical categories are amended based on the received inputs.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the identity information and download availability information listing is created and transmitted automatically on a periodic basis.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically retrieving and playing multimedia files, comprising:

a network access interface which provides access to a data network;

a scheduler adapted to operate on a centralized scheduling website connected to the data network, to search a plurality of distinct additional websites for a multimedia files, obtain a schedule of availability of times when said multimedia files are available for download, categorize said multimedia files and create a first list containing category information about said multimedia files;

a device web browser program receiver plug-in selection interface in communication with said scheduler which compiles a download schedule and,

requests one or more portions of the first list from the scheduler, wherein at least one of the one or more portions are requested from the scheduler according to a user's category preferences.

receives the one or more portions of the first list from the scheduler, the one or more portions of the first list received from the scheduler comprising a first part and a second part, the first part comprising a category listing and the second part comprising an entire first list,

stores the first and second parts on desktop computer. ~~provides for presentation of said first list to a user, and receives and processes user inputs for according to~~

~~accessing multimedia files according to the schedule of times when said multimedia file is available for download from said websites and compile a user download schedule; and~~

~~file download device in communication with said selection interface which, based on said user download schedule, automatically accesses said selected multimedia file through said network access interface.~~

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the file download device:

determines whether any conflicts exist in the download schedule compiled by the web browser plug-in selection interface;

automatically reschedules at least one download in response to a determination that a conflict exists in the download schedule; and

provides a notification that the download schedule has been changed.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

determining whether any conflicts exist in the download schedule compiled by the web browser plug-in selection interface;

automatically rescheduling at least one download in response to a determination that a conflict exists in the download schedule; and

provides a notification that the download schedule has been changed.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the file download device:

determines whether any conflicts exist in the download schedule compiled by the selection interface;

automatically reschedules at least one download in response to a determination that a conflict exists in the download schedule; and

provides a notification that the download schedule has been changed.

25. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein, collecting identity information and download availability information for a plurality of multimedia files in a plurality of multimedia websites comprises, transferring a read-only HTML file from each of the plurality of multimedia websites to the centralized scheduling website.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein transferring a read-only HTML from each of the plurality of multimedia websites to the centralized scheduling website comprises, automatically transferring each of the read-only HTML files from each of the plurality of multimedia websites

to the centralized scheduling website on a periodic basis without first receiving a request for each of the read-only HTML files from the centralized scheduling website prior to each transfer.

27. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein,

the first part is used to update a preconfigured category list on the device; and

the device web browser program receiver plugin is adapted to display on a display screen,

the updated preconfigured category list upon a user selecting the first part, and

the entire first list upon the user selecting the second part.

28. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein,

when the first part is selected, the display screen displays a first column comprising the updated preconfigured category list and a second column comprising an entire category list of the first list;

a new updated preconfigured category list is displayed when one of, categories are deleted from the first column and categories are copied from the second column to the first column; and

the device web browser plug-in is adapted to automatically provide the centralized scheduling website the new preconfigured updated category list so that only desired categories are received from the scheduler in the first part of the first list in response to future requests.

29. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein,

when the first part is selected, the display screen displays one or more graphical selections, each graphical selection corresponding to at least one of the categories from the updated preconfigured category list; and

when one of the one or more graphical selections are selected, the display screen displays one or more multimedia files corresponding to the category of the graphical selection.

30. (New) The system of claim 20 further comprising, an electronic notification system in electronic communication with a user wherein, when the first part and the second part of the first list are received, the electronic notification system electronically notifies the user that the first list has been received at the device.